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INDEX.

VOTES FOR WOMEN, October, 1907—September 24, 1908.

A

A. B. C. of Votes for Women, The. By Mrs. Pethick Lawrence ... 388
Aberdeen Daily Journal ... 58, 132
Evening Express ... 59, 132
Evening Gazette ... 132, 134
Free Press ... 46, 58, 59, 74, 132, 203, 445
Aberdeen, Mr. Asquith at ... 58
Aberdeen Students and Mr. Asquith ... 271
Abernerley, Father ... 22, 31
Address to Prisoners ... 472
Albert Hall March ... 241
Albert Hall Meeting on March 19 ... 88, 98, 112
Albert Hall Temperance Meeting Protest ... 178
America, Mrs. Wells' Campaign in ... 71
America, Public School Teachers in ... 407
America, Suffragist Campaign in ... 149
America, Woman Suffrage in ... 71, 379
America, Women Physicians in ... 407
American Students and Suffrage ... 247
American Suffrage Movement ... 181
American Women as Town Clerks ... 214
American Women Clerks ... 267
Amusing Rumour, An ... 463
Annie Kenney at Sir Edward Grey's Manchester Meeting ... 3
Answers to Correspondents, 186, 199, 221, 237, 306, 342, 359, 374, 412, 422
Anti-Suffragists, The, 13, 18, 225, 232, 233, 237
Argument with Pooh Bah, An. By Mona Caird ... 80
Arrests ... 3, 62, 70, 83, 282, 301
Ashton, Miss, on Asquith's Pledge ... 205
"A Small Civil War" ... 396
Asquith and Aberdeen Women Students ... 271
Asquith and Liberal Deputation ... 193, 201, 202
Asquith and Women's Bill (see Women's Enfranchisement Bill)
Asquith Attempts Conciliation ... 367
Asquith Correspondence with, After Hyde Park ... 265
Asquith Or Annie Kenney ... 210
Asquith, Mr., at Birmingham ... 272
Asquith At Free Trade Banquet ... 378
Asquith At Lancaster ... 69
Asquith At Norwich ... 69
Asquith At Nottingham ... 53
Asquith At Nuneaton ... 37
Asquith's Opportunity. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 426
Asquith Pledge, Questions in House ... 209, 218
Asquith Rebuff of Constitutional Suffragists ... 322
Asquith Reply, The London Press on ... 93
Athletic Feats, Women and ... 379
Augsburg, Dr. Anita ... 10, 31
Auld, Miss W.: Biography ... 254
Australia (Victoria) Women's Suffrage Committee ... 23
Australia Women's Work in ... 55
Autumn Campaign, The ... 405
Autumn Campaign, How We Honour Brave Women. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence ... 440
Ayrton, Hertha, Message of Encouragement to Women ... 47

B

Back-Stairs Influence. By Mary Gawthorpe ... 18
Baines, Mrs. Jennie; Portrait and Biography ... 145, 254
Balance-sheet, September, 1907 ... 12
Baldock, Mrs.; Biography ... 252
Baldock, Mrs. Message from Holloway ... 82
Banner Unfurling Ceremony ... 270
Barmaids' Employment Threatened ... 127, 166
Barnes W.S.P.U., 318, 350, 382, 398, 414, 430, 446
Barrett, Miss Rachel, B.Sc.; Portrait and Biography ... 144
Bastille, Women Political Prisoners in the, and in Holloway ... 390
Bath Working Women and the Suffrage ... 447
Battersea W.S.P.U. ... 478
Battersea W.S.P.U. And Clapham W.S.P.U. ... 318, 334
Battersea, Mr. John Burns at ... 219
Battersea Protest Meeting ... 309
Battle Cry, The ... 6
Belfast University, The Future of ... 423
Berlin's Progressive Women ... 55, 129
Berlon, Miss E.; Biography ... 252
Biographies of Hyde Park Chairmen and Speakers ... 141-5, 251-4
Birmingham Conservative Conference and Woman Suffrage ... 38
Birmingham Mr. Asquith at ... 272
Birmingham Trades' Council and Suffrage Prisoners ... 398
Birmingham Post ... 263
Birmingham Report ... 26
Birmingham W.S.P.U. ... 334
Birrell, Mr., at Reading ... 69
Birrell, Mr., at Southampton ... 37
Bisley, Women Competitors at ... 327
Boat Race, The University ... 118
Bodkin Tactics ... 68
Bohemia, Women as Candidates in ... 103
Bon Accord ... 87, 92, 278
Bonwick, Miss T.; Biography ... 253
Bonwick, Mrs.; Biography ... 253
Books of the Month ... 19, 51
Borough Council Elections ... 181
Boulter's Lock, Suffragettes at ... 386, 396
Bournemouth, Debate at ... 366
Bouvier, Mrs. J. A.; Biography ... 253
Bowes Park W.S.P.U. ... 26, 175, 191
Boy Who Threw a Chestnut. By Evelyn Sharp ... 159
Brackenbury, Georgina A.; Message of Encouragement to Women ... 99
Brackenbury Portrait and Biography ... 141, 251
Brackenbury M.; Portrait and Biography ... 143, 252
Bradford Observer ... 349
Bradford, Shipley Glen Demonstration ... 222
Bradford W.S.P.U. ... 318, 334
Breakfast at Queen's Hall ... 354, 458, 468, 470
Breakfast At the Wharncliffe Rooms ... 113
Brighton and Hove W.S.P.U., 115, 238, 256, 271, 286, 302, 318, 382, 414, 478
Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage ... 95
Bristol Campaign ... 26
Bristol Demonstration ... 476
Bristol Daily Mercury ... 476
Evening Times ... 459
Times and Mirror ... 476
Brixton and Streatham W.S.P.U., 11, 26, 60, 74, 191, 238, 256, 271
Brook, Miss G. H.; Biography ... 253
Burns, John, and Women's Labour ... 209, 219
Burns, John, At Battersea ... 219
Burns, John, At Leeds ... 45, 53
Burns, John, At Oldham ... 219
Buxton, Mr. Sydney, at Poplar ... 14, 22, 37
By-Elections:—
Dewsbury ... 118, 131
Dundee ... 118, 133, 152, 157, 167, 169
Haggerston, 338, 344, 345, 347, 353, 361, 363, 370, 386
Hastings ... 85
Herefordshire (Ross) ... 54, 67, 85, 87
Hull ... 21, 38, 39
Kincardineshire ... 105, 117, 132
Mid-Devon ... 54, 61, 69, 370
Montrose Burghs ... 133, 151, 172, 187
Newcastle ... 433, 442, 449, 452, 457, 465, 474
Newcastle Impressions. By Elizabeth Robins ... 452
Newport (Salop) ... 117, 171, 177, 187
North-West Manchester ... 118, 126, 130, 370
Peckham ... 104, 107, 109
Pembroke ... 285, 293, 314, 325
Pudsey ... 219, 236, 255, 266
South Leeds ... 67, 85
Stirling Burghs, 133, 151, 172, 188, 194, 206, 207
West Hull ... 21
Wolverhampton (East), 133, 138, 150, 151, 157, 172
Worcester (City) ... 54, 67, 85, 87
Reduction of Liberal Poll Analysed ... 78

C

Bystander ... 105
Cabinet Ministers' Fear of Women. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence ... 360
Cabinet Responsibility, Joint. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 377
Caird, Mona, An Argument with Pooh Bah ... 80
Caird Message From ... 15
Caird On Woman Suffrage ... 380
Cambrian News ... 93, 134
Cambridge, Mr. Haldane at ... 53
Cambridge Students' Success ... 267
Cameron, Miss M. T.; Biography ... 254
Campaign Throughout the Country, The—
Harrogate ... 429, 460, 477
Lancashire ... 7, 74, 213, 230, 349, 413, 428, 444
Manchester ... 228, 284, 301, 316, 460, 477
Midlands ... 7, 22, 26, 214, 429, 445, 461, 477
Nottingham ... 301
North of England ... 22, 115
Rossendale Valley, 22, 301, 317, 325, 348, 397, 414, 429
Scottish Notes, 12, 27, 44, 60, 74, 95, 115, 156, 174, 190, 207, 222, 238, 256, 271, 303
South Wales ... 198, 231
West of England, 7, 21, 26, 198, 208, 214, 231, 333, 350, 366, 382, 397, 413, 428, 444, 459, 476
Yorkshire 7, 26, 42, 75, 95, 174, 191, 206, 213, 222, 239, 285, 301, 317, 325, 397, 413, 429, 444, 460, 477
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir Henry, at Dunfermline ... 27
Campbell-Bannerman Letter to Scottish Suffragists ... 12
Campbell, Bishop, on Women's Sphere ... 135
Campbell, R. J., Message from ... 31
Canada, Women's Suffrage in ... 181
Candidates, Women, 9, 148, 149, 155, 161, 173, 181
"Can Men Help?" ... 294
Carnie, Miss Ethel, Poetess ... 267
Carrington, Earl, at Maidstone ... 53
Carryer, Miss, Candidate in Leicester Municipal Election ... 9
Cattle-Driving in Ireland ... 433
Cavalry Corps, Islington Girls' ... 28
Central Bureau, The ... 379
Chairmen and Speakers in Hyde Park: Biographies ... 141-145, 251-254
Charles II., Statute of, Threat to Prosecute Under ... 83, 84, 87
Chatterton, Mrs.; Biography ... 251
Chelmsford, Lord Tweedmouth at ... 53
Chelsea W.S.P.U., 26, 42, 60, 74, 271, 286, 302, 318, 334, 350, 462
Chemical Society and Women ... 283
Chemist, A Woman ... 407
Chemistry, Miss Gertrude Wren's Success ... 168
Chestnut, The Boy Who Threw a. By Evelyn Sharp ... 159
Child, Woman's Suffrage and the. By Evelyn Sharp ... 16
Chiswick W.S.P.U., 115, 135, 156, 223, 256, 286, 478
Chiswick And Hammersmith W.S.P.U. ... 60
Chivalry, In the Age of. By F. E. M. Macaulay ... 373
Christian Commonwealth ... 173, 219, 300, 308
Christmas Card, A "Votes for Women" ... 35
Christmas Greeting, A ... 36
Church and Women's Work ... 149
Churchill, Mr. Winston, at Dundee ... 284
Churchill At the Free Trade Congress ... 365
Churchill's Address to Dundee Women, 147, 153, 157
Churchill Defeat, Mr. A. J. King, M.P., on ... 137
Churchill Tactics at Dundee ... 147, 153
Circulation of VOTES FOR WOMEN ... 97, 117
Clapham Common Protest Meeting ... 321
Clapham W.S.P.U. ... 42
Clarion ... 279, 308
Clarke, Mrs. M.; Biography ... 251
College of Surgeons and Women ... 311
Colley, Archdeacon, on the Suffrage ... 295

PAGE

Colonies (*see* Women in Other Lands).
Concert in Aid of the Funds 91
Conditions of Release. By Clemence Housman 414
Conductor of an Orchestra, A Woman 407
Conolan, Miss Gertrude; Portrait and Biography 143, 253
Constitutional Suffragists, Premier's Rebuff of 302
Conservative Conference, Birmingham and Woman Suffrage 38
Contributions to the £20,000 Fund, 12, 27, 43, 57, 76, 96, 116, 128, 156, 176, 179, 221, 236, 255, 272, 288, 303, 319, 335, 351, 368, 384, 400, 415, 431, 447, 463, 479
Convention of Women 21
"Convert, The" (Elizabeth Robins), Reviewed 19
Co-operators and Women's Suffrage 237
Cooper, Dr. George, Letter to the *Daily News* 30
Councillors (*see* Municipal) 9
Coventry W.S.P.U. 208, 334, 398
Crewe, Earl, at Watford 69
Crocker, Miss Nelly; Portrait and Biography 144, 253
Cromwell Anniversary 447
Crusade, The. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 232
Crystal Palace, Suffragettes at the, 119, 290, 406
Cullen, Mrs. L. C.; Biography 251
Cunard, Ida, Message of Encouragement ... 99
Cup Final, Suffragettes and the 123
Tie, Suffragettes and the 119
Curio Dealing as a Business Opening 439

D

Daily Chronicle, 28, 29, 85, 87, 107, 131, 155, 173, 203, 209, 218, 219, 241, 259, 262, 299, 406, 453
Dispatch 28
Express 131, 203, 241, 262, 306, 313, 370
Mail, 77, 85, 105, 151, 171, 178, 203, 261, 373
Mirror 28, 130, 262, 273, 346, 455
News, 29, 30, 38, 46, 85, 104, 107, 109, 130, 137, 140, 158, 169, 172, 173, 174, 193, 202, 203, 209, 218, 241, 259, 261, 299, 306, 308, 327, 357, 364, 370, 394, 401, 406, 417, 420, 426, 465, 473
On Women's Courage 394
Telegraph, 93, 104, 131, 149, 169, 210, 299, 406, 422, 442, 453, 454, 465, 470, 475
Daisy Lord, The Case of, 329, 391, 417, 420, 446, 454
Debate at Bournemouth 366
Deeside, Mrs. Pankhurst in 445
De Launay, Mlle. and Bastille Treatment ... 390
Democracy Stultified; Laurence Housman on 179
Demonstrations, 28 210, 220, 222, 310, 321, 324, 325, 331, 349, 351, 385, 389, 445, 476
Denmark, Women's Suffrage in 346
De Pratz, Mlle. Claire, on French and English Women 64
Deptford W.S.P.U. 11
Deputation to Mr. Harcourt 22
Dewsbury By-Election 118, 131
Disraeli, Support of 24
Dissolution, An Early 1
Distinction in Science, A 423
Doctor's Testimony, A 104
Domestic Servants' Union, A 423
Dress Problem, Suffragettes and the 348
Drummond, Mrs., and French Suffragists ... 237
Portrait and Biography 144, 253
Dublin Express 299
Dugdale, Miss Joan; Biography 252
Miss Una S.; Biography 252
Dundee Advertiser..... 154
Dundee, Analysis of Figures 158
By-Election 118, 133, 152, 157, 167, 169
Churchill's Tactics at 147, 153
Dundee Courier 152, 153, 154, 170, 171, 284
Evening Telegraph 133, 152, 169, 187
Dundee, Mr. Winston Churchill at 284
Dundee Saturday Post 153

E

Earl's Court Demonstration 310, 324, 343
Votes for Women Stall 7, 75
East Anglian Daily Times 300
Berks Gazette 278
Bucks Gazette 134
Eastern Counties, The Movement in 26
Eates, Mrs.; Biography 253
Edinburgh W.S.P.U. 318, 335
And Midlothian W.S.P.U. 222, 238
Education Bill, The 121
Egyptian Enfranchisement, Women and 426
Elections, Parliamentary (*see* By-Elections)
Elmy, Eliz. C. Wolstenholme, Message from 15
On Suffrage Veterans 35
Employment of Women 75
"Entente Cordiale"; Mrs. Drummond's Mission 237
Threatened by Government 166
Equal Political Rights for Men and Women. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 280
Eternal City, Votes for Women in the 64
Eucharistic Procession and the Home Secretary 449
Evening News 140, 155, 204, 357, 364
Standard and St. James' Gazette, 204, 417, 420, 463
Exeter, Lord Tweedmouth at 37

F

Factory Inspectors, Increase of Women 407
Workers in Germany 395
Feeling in Lancashire and Yorkshire 74
Fenwick, Ethel G.: The Nurses' Enslavement Bill 139
Fighting Woman, The. By Evelyn Sharp ... 418

PAGE

Filipino Women's Suffrage 108
Financial Ability, Recognition of 423
Finland Women's Influence on Legislation ... 181
Women M.P.'s 423
Women's Vote in 379, 407
Fishguard and County Times 315
Foreign Movements (*see* Women in Other Lands)
Forest Gate and Wanstead Park W.S.P.U., 208, 286, 302, 334, 383, 398, 478
Forgotten War Heroine, A 455
Fowler, Sir Henry, Raised to Peerage 117
Fraser, Miss Helen; Biography 253
Freedom of Bournemouth Conferred on a Woman 103
Free Trade 127
Banquet, Mr. Asquith at 378
Congress, Mr. Winston Churchill at 365
Congress, Protests at 365, 378
French Bar, A Woman Called to the 28
Militants 148, 155, 161, 327
Suffragette, The. By an English Visitor... 161
Suffragists 95, 148, 155, 161, 181, 327
And Mrs. Drummond 237
Women and English Women. By Mlle. Claire De Pratz..... 64
Women's Congress 283
Fund (*see* Contributions)

G

Galsworthy, John, The Strong-minded Man... 32
Game, The New ("Suffragette")..... 28
Gawthorpe, Mary, Special Article by 18
Portrait and Biography 141, 251
General Booth's Manifesto 411
Geological Society and Women 168, 215
The Fellowship of the 341, 454
German Factory Workers 395
Reform of Women's Laws 215
Suffragists 55, 95
Women's Conference 3, 10, 28
Women's Education 407
Ginnell, Mr., as Political Prisoner 433
Gladstone, Mr. Herbert, at Leeds 37, 42
A Mean Trick Foiled 465
And the Women Prisoners ...326, 337, 340, 449
Statements by 101, 369
W. E., and the County Franchise..... 54
Glasgow Evening Times 189
Herald 238
News 140
Glasgow, Progressive..... 76
Globe 131, 140, 204, 299, 401, 406, 414, 449
Go Forward! By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 264
"Going Through the Mill." Reviewed by E. P. L..... 427
Gold, Where Women Would Find 121
Golfers, Women 395
Good Pull and a Strong Pull, A. By Evelyn Sharp 470
"Good Stickers." By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 408
Gorst, Mrs. Harold, and the Management of Husbands 18
Government and Women's Bill (*see* Women's Enfranchisement Bill)
Graduates' Lawsuit, The Scottish Women's. By J. Chrystal Macmillan..... 34
Graphic 278
Great March, The 227, 243, 268
Greece, Women's Work in 295
Greetings from the Prisoners 66
Grieve, Esa, on Success of Militant Tactics 189
Growth of the N.W.S.P.U. 98
VOTES FOR WOMEN 117
Guardian 278

H

Haggerston, An Echo of 386
By-Election, 338, 344, 345, 347, 353, 361, 363, 370, 386
Released Prisoners' Visit to 364
Haig, Florence E., Message of Encouragement to Women 99
Haldane, Mr., at Sheffield 42
At Cambridge 37, 53
At Manchester (Victoria University) ...305, 316
Halifax Guardian 179
Hammersmith W.S.P.U., 42, 74, 115, 191, 223, 289, 271, 334, 350, 366, 446, 478
Hampstead Women Councillors 181
Harburton, Florence W., Message of Encouragement to Women 63
Harcourt, Mr., at the *Tribune* Rendezvous 53
In the Rossendale Valley, 7, 14, 22, 37, 53
Hardwicke Society, Debate on Woman Suffrage 103
Harraden, Beatrice, Message from 15
Harrogate 460, 477
Harrow Road W.S.P.U. 11, 26, 42
Hastings By-Election 85
Hawkins, Mrs. A.; Biography 254
Head, Mrs.; Obituary Notice 348
Heale, Juliette, Special Articles by 48, 340
Heaton Park Demonstration 321, 331
Helensburgh Herald 60
Herefordshire (Ross) By-Election, 54, 67, 85, 87
Hereford Times, 85, 87, 92, 107, 114, 134, 278, 386
"Here's a Prisoner We Have Got." By Mary Neal 456
Higgins, Miss L. H.; Biography 253
Hillier, Mrs.; Biography 251
History of the Suffrage Movement. By Sylvia Pankhurst, 8, 24, 40, 56, 72, 90, 110, 122, 140, 160, 180, 195, 226, 276, 292, 307, 323, 339, 355, 371, 387, 403, 419, 435, 451, 466
The Lesson of 86
Hocknell's Alleged Letter to Asquith ...178, 198
Holidays, Work for 366
Holland, Women's Agitation in 23
Holloway, Messages from 82

PAGE

Home Rule: Political Situation Compared 410
Honour to Whom Honour is Due. Letter from Eliz. C. Wolstenholme Elmy 35
Hornsey W.S.P.U. 462
Horticultural Hall Meeting 71
House Upon the Sand, The 20
Housman, Clemence; Conditions of Release 414
Laurence; Message of Encouragement to Women 63
Special Articles by 120, 179
Hove, At Home in 11
Howey, Miss E. N.; Biography 252
How it Works Out. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 328
How the Women will Answer Mr. Asquith ... 265
How We Answer Mr. Asquith. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 200
How We Honour Brave Women. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 440
How We Spent Our Holidays 438
Women Can Help 136
Huddersfield W.S.P.U. 383
Hull By-Election 21, 38, 39
W.S.P.U. 223, 334
Hungarian Exhibition, Demonstration at, 310, 324, 343
Hunslet Moor, Meeting on 84, 85
Hyde Park and Routes, Map of 163
Chairmen and Speakers; Portraits and Biographies 141-145, 251-254
Demonstration, Accounts of, 257, 260-3, 268
Echoes of 277-9
Press Comments on 259

I

Iceland, Women's Petition..... 41
Ilford W.S.P.U. 462
Illustrations, 141-5, 163, 183, 310, 324, 404, 438, 455, 469, 471
Imperial Service Order for Women 215
Impression of Peckham, An 102
India, Situation in..... 473
Women Students in 346
International Women's Alliance 367
Council 215
Suffrage Alliance..... 148
In the Age of Chivalry. By F. E. M. Macaulay 373
In the Park 250
Irish Universities, Women in the 129
Votes 128
Islington Girls' Cavalry Corps 28
Italy, Women's Petition 23
"It's Women for Women Now." By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 344

J

"Jeanne d'Arc" Reviewed 51
Jewish Chronicle 173
Jewish Women and the Suffrage 181
Joachim, M., Message of Encouragement to Women 99
On Congress at Rome 148
Joint Cabinet Responsibility. By Christabel Pankhurst 377
Jones, Dr. H. E.; Portrait and Biography 145, 254
Joynson-Hicks, Mr., Acknowledgment by ... 130
"June 21, 1908" 268

K

Keegan, Miss M.; Biography 253
Keevil, Miss Gladice; Portrait and Biography 145, 254
Kenney, Annie, Message from Holloway..... 82
Portrait and Biography 141, 251
Special Article by 182
Speech to the Women of Germany 3
Jennie; Biography 251
Jessie; Biography 253
Nell; Portrait and Biography 143, 252
Kensington Borough Council, Lady Candidate, A 129
College Students' Meeting 239
Kensington W.S.P.U., 11, 27, 28, 74, 175, 208, 256, 286, 302, 318, 334, 366 462
Kenyon-Slaney, Mr., Death of 117
Kerwood, Mrs. E., Message of Encouragement to Women 99
Biography 251
Kincardineshire By-Election 105, 117, 132
King, Alfred J., M.P., on Churchill's Defeat 137
King's Speech, The 37
Kite, The 119

L

Labour Leader 209, 218, 278
Lady Climber's Record 395
Lady's Pictorial 210
Laloe, Mlle.: Municipal Candidature in Paris.....148, 155, 161
Lamb, Miss Æta; Biography 254
Lambert, Miss Lina; Biography 253
Lancashire and Yorkshire, Feeling in 74
Protest Meetings 87, 95
Lancashire Campaign 349, 413, 428, 444
Lancaster, Mr. Asquith at 69
Last of the Harem, The 439
La Suffragiste 95
Law Court Clerks (Women) 103
Law, Miss A. C.; Biography 254
Lawrence, Mrs. E. Pethick; Portrait and Biography 142, 251
F. W. P. 19, 65, 392
Special Articles by, 5, 10, 17, 33, 49, 66, 100, 121, 184, 200, 216, 232, 248, 264, 280, 296, 312, 328, 344, 360, 376, 388, 408, 424, 440, 472

PAGE

Leading Articles, 6, 20, 36, 52, 68, 86, 106, 126, 146, 166, 184, 200, 216, 232, 248, 264, 280, 296, 312, 328, 344, 360, 376, 392, 408, 424, 440, 456, 472
Lectures in the Portman Rooms ... 87
Leeds Demonstration ... 325, 337, 349
Leeds Mercury ... 84, 85, 349
Leeds, Mr. Herbert Gladstone at ... 37, 42
Mr. John Burns at ... 45, 53
Legislation for Women ... 166
Leicester Demonstration ... 351, 354, 365
Woman Councillor ... 9
Leicester Pioneer ... 365
Leicester W.S.P.U., 135, 156, 191, 223, 238, 462
Leigh, Mrs., and Miss New Released ... 404
Biography ... 253
Lesson of History, The ... 86
Letters (*see* Post-Box)
Lewisham W.S.P.U., 42, 115, 135, 156, 175, 192, 208, 223, 238, 256, 286, 302, 318, 334, 350, 366, 382, 398, 430, 478
Liberal M.P.'s Deputation to Mr. Asquith, 193, 201, 202
Testimony, A ... 85
Woman, A Letter from a ... 425
Women, An Open Letter to. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence ... 100
Liberal Poll Reduced ... 78
Women and Premier ... 185, 204-5
Women and the W.S.P.U. ... 58
Women and Women's Suffrage ... 22
Women at Queen's Hall ... 75
Women's Attitude ... 45, 98, 128
Women's Revolt ... 62
Liberals, Hypocrisy of ... 353
Licensing Bill, The ... 101, 120, 128, 457
Lifeboat Launched by Women ... 455
Lightman, Miss H.; Biography ... 251
Miss N.; Biography ... 251
Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury ... 193
Liverpool Mass Demonstration (Men's League) ... 431
Liverpool W.S.P.U. ... 446
Lloyd George, Mr., and Woman's Vote: Letter from Annie Swan ... 35
Appointment as Chancellor of the Exchequer ... 117
At Queen's Hall ... 356, 360
Deputation to ... 37, 44
Explains Further ... 399
Explanation ... 367
Statement by ... 22, 29
Lloyd's Weekly News ... 278
Local Notes, 11, 26, 42, 60, 74, 115, 135, 156, 173, 191, 208, 223, 238, 256, 271, 286, 302, 318, 334, 350, 366, 382, 398, 414, 430, 446, 462, 478
London Campaign ... 458, 475
City W.S.P.U., 42, 191, 208, 223, 256, 286, 302, 318, 334, 350, 366, 382, 430, 462
The Campaign in ... 7, 11, 21, 26, 42, 458, 475
Lord Morley on Political Revolt ... 394
Morley's View on the Cabinet ... 377
Lorsignol, Mrs.; Biography ... 254
Lowell, James Russell, Quoted ... 86

M

Macaulay, Miss F. E. M.; Biography ... 252
Macdonald, Mary, Message of Encouragement to Women ... 79
Macfadyen, Irene N. A., Message from ... 31
McLeod, A. K., Article: How I Protested at the Free Trade Banquet ... 378
Biography ... 254
Macmillan, J. Chrystal: The Scottish Women Graduates' Lawsuit ... 34
Magna Charta ... 388, 426, 441
Maidstone, Earl Carrington at ... 53
Manchester Campaign ... 284, 301, 316, 460, 477
Manchester Courier ... 259, 263, 332
Daily Dispatch ... 114, 299, 333
Manchester Demonstration ... 28
(Heaton Park) Demonstration ... 316, 321, 331
Manchester Evening Chronicle ... 170, 219, 333
Evening News ... 173
Guardian, 14, 76, 109, 129, 130, 131, 137, 203, 242, 305, 306, 308, 330, 331, 447
Manchester (North-West) By-Election, 118, 126, 130, 370
Press Opinions ... 137
(Victoria University), Lord Morley and Mr. Haldane at ... 305, 316
W.S.P.U., 26, 75, 176, 186, 208, 223, 238, 271, 286, 302, 318, 334, 350, 398
Man's Valuation of the Vote ... 364
Map of England (Train Routes) ... 183
Hyde Park and Routes ... 163
March of Women to Albert Hall ... 241
Married Women's Labour ... 48, 75, 166, 182
Property in France ... 41
Martel, Mrs.; Portrait and Biography ... 142, 252
At Liverpool ... 447
Maskelyne and Devant's Entertainment and Votes for Women ... 447
Massy, Mrs.; Portrait and Biography ... 142, 251
Rosamund, Message of Encouragement to Women ... 47
Masterman, Prof., on Women's Vote in Past ... 158, 172, 173
Matchless Cleansers, The. By Constance Smedley ... 372
Matin, Le ... 137
Maud, Constance Elizabeth, Message of Encouragement to Women ... 47
Medical Research Work ... 129
Medicine, Women's Place in ... 407
Meetings of Cabinet Ministers (see Protests).
Memorial Card, Mid-Devon ... 61
Mendacious Home Secretary, A (Extract from *Vanity Fair*) ... 92
Meredith, Mrs. Margaret, Conducts an Orchestra ... 407
Messages of Encouragement to Women, 15, 31, 47, 63, 79, 99, 242
Mid-Atlantic, Votes for Women in ... 436
Mid-Devon By-Election ... 34, 61, 69, 370

PAGE

Midland Free Press ... 365
Midlands Campaign ... 429, 445, 461, 477
Milan Women's Congress ... 275
Militant Campaign, The. Speech by Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 101
Demonstrations ... 282
French Women ... 148, 155, 161, 327
In the Past ... 441
Methods, The Value of. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 473
Tactics, Tributes to Success of, 29, 189, 193, 241
Tactics: What They Mean. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence ... 81
Militants, Progress Due to the ... 370
Miropolsky, Mlle. ... 28
Mode Von Heute ... 95
Mohammedan Suffragettes ... 379
Women's Appeal for Freedom ... 129
Monopoly and the Time-Limit. By Laurence Housman ... 120
Montague, Mrs. A.; Biography ... 252
Montrose Burghs By-Election, 133, 151, 172, 187
Moral Education, Women and ... 379
Mordan, Clara Evelyn, Message from ... 31
Morley, Lord, at Manchester (Victoria University) ... 305, 316
Morley, Mr. John, Raised to Peerage ... 117
Morning Leader, 130, 176, 177, 259, 262, 353, 357
Post, 38, 61, 67, 93, 104, 167, 171, 203, 218, 241, 259, 315, 345, 357, 364, 378, 474
Morris, Mrs.; Biography ... 251
Mosen, Mrs. L. S.; Biography ... 253
Mr. Gooch's View of Peckham By-election 104
Mulholland, Miss Inez, and Fellow-Students 247
Municipal Councillors (Women), 9, 148, 149, 181
Murray, Judge L. E. R., on Australian Suffrage ... 275
My Conversion. By Annie M. Preston ... 381

N

Nation ... 104, 107, 109, 277, 426
National Campaign, The. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 7, 21, 37, 53, 69, 87
National Review ... 114
Nation's Wealth, The. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence ... 121
Naylor, Miss M.; Portrait and Biography 144, 253
Neal, Mary, Message of Encouragement to Women ... 47
"Here's a Prisoner We Have Got" ... 456
Newcastle By-Election, 433, 442, 449, 452, 457, 465, 474
Why We Fight the Government at. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 457
W.S.P.U. ... 446
Newcastle Daily Chronicle, 449, 452, 454, 468, 474, 475
New, Miss, and Mrs. Leigh Released ... 404
Portrait and Biography ... 145, 254
New Moral Ideal, A ... 49
Newnham Students' Success ... 247
Newport (Salop) By-Election, 117, 171, 177, 187
New South Wales, Women's Vote in ... 275
Newton, Rosa; Biography ... 252
Nineteenth Century ... 426
Northern Whig ... 140
North Islington Conservative and Unionist ... 174
Mail ... 453, 454, 475
Wales Chronicle ... 76
North-West Manchester By-Election, 118, 126, 130, 370
North, Work in the ... 115
Norway, How Women Got the Vote in ... 41
Norwegian Women Clerks ... 295
Norwich, Mr. Asquith at ... 69
Not a Police Disturbance; Letter from Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 88
Nottingham Campaign ... 301
Nottingham Daily Express ... 331
Nottingham Forest Demonstration ... 321, 331
Nottingham Guardian ... 46, 76
Nottingham, Mr. Asquith at ... 53
W.S.P.U. ... 175
Nourse, Mrs. E. L.; Biography ... 251
Nuneaton, Mr. Asquith at ... 37
Nurses and the Suffrage ... 45
Nurses' Directory Bill ... 138, 139, 166, 168
Enslavement Bill, The. By Ethel G. Fenwick ... 139
Meetings ... 223, 228
Nurses, Mounted ... 235
N W S P.U. Literature ... 1
Members' Pledge Card, 12, 44, 348, 380, 399, 415
Milestones in the ... 1

O

Obituary Notices:—
Mrs. Head ... 348
Miss L. Stevenson, LL.D. ... 190
Observer, The ... 241, 242
Ogston, Miss; Biography ... 252
Old Age Suffrage. By Edith Ayrton Zangwill ... 402
Oldham, Mr. John Burns at ... 219
One of the Prisoners Visited ... 427
One Vote in Six ... 388
Opening the Autumn Campaign in London 443
Open Letter to Liberal Women, An. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence ... 100
Other Lands, Women in (*see* Women in Other Lands)
Oxford and the Suffrage Movement. By E. I. J. ... 364

P

Pall Mall Gazette ... 103, 140, 203, 357, 364, 367
Pan-Anglican Congress ... 149

PAGE

Pankhurst, Adela, in Yorkshire ... 11
Portrait and Biography ... 143, 252
Pankhurst, Christabel, LL.B., Debate of the Hardwicke Society ... 103
Letter to the Press ... 88
Message from ... 31
National Campaign ... 7, 21, 37, 53, 69, 87
Political Notes, 107, 127, 147, 167, 185, 201, 217, 233, 249, 265, 281, 297, 313, 329, 345, 361, 377, 393, 409, 426, 441, 457, 473
Portrait and Biography ... 143, 252
Special Articles by, 313, 329, 345, 361, 377, 393, 409, 426, 441, 457, 473
Speech by ... 101
Pankhurst, Dr. ... 3
Pankhurst, Mrs., Arrested ... 83
In Deeside and West Highlands ... 445, 446
Message from Holloway ... 82
Portrait and Biography ... 2, 142, 251
Release of ... 112
Pankhurst, Sylvia (*see* History of the Suffrage Movement)
Biography ... 254
Parisian Suffragettes ... 95, 148, 237, 327
Paris Municipal Elections, Suffragists at, 133, 161
Parker, Frances; Biography ... 252
Parliament, Questions in, 209, 218, 300, 326, 337, 340, 380
Square, Demonstration in, June 30 ... 298
Gathering in ... 273, 282
Of Women ... 38
Sentences, 289, 291, 298, 300, 305, 308, 309, 322, 326
Party System Evils, Laurence Housman on 179
Peace Meeting (Queen's Hall), Mr. Lloyd George at ... 356, 360
Pearce, Mr. Robert, M.P.; Political Offenders' Bill ... 327
Peckham By-Election ... 104, 107, 109
Peckham Post ... 105
Peckham Rye Protest Meeting ... 309
The Lesson of ... 106
Pembroke By-Election ... 285, 293, 314, 325
Pembroke County Guardian ... 315
People, The ... 278
Persia, The Situation in ... 473
Pethick, Dorothy; Biography ... 251
Pett Ridge, W., Message from ... 31
Pharmaceutical Society and Women ... 168
Philippine Islands, Women's Suffrage in ... 168
Phillips, Mary; Biography ... 253
On a Typical Suffragist ... 35
Release and Welcome ... 436, 458, 470
Platforms and Speakers in Hyde Park, 141-5, 251-4
Pledges of M.P.'s, The. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 409
Plucky French Child, A ... 407
Rescues ... 395
Swimmer, A ... 379
Poland, Women's Manifesto ... 41
Political Liberty, Title Deeds of. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 441
Notes (*see* Pankhurst, Christabel)
Offences Bill ... 327
Revolt, Lord Morley on ... 394
Ruse, A ... 174
Tactics (Leading Article) ... 146
Ponsonby, Mr. A., on Votes for Women ... 189
Pooh Bah, An Argument With. By Mona Caird ... 80
Poplar, Mr. Sydney Buxton at ... 14, 22, 37
Portia, A Welsh ... 129
P.O. Savings Bank, Women Clerks in ... 149
Post-Box, 2, 50, 66, 94, 102, 155, 275, 286, 288, 294, 341, 351, 374, 391, 396, 412, 422, 438, 446, 454
Powerlessness of the Private Member, The. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 393
Premier (*see* Asquith)
Press, The London, on Mr. Asquith's Reply 93
Preston W.S.P.U. ... 75
Prevention of Crime, Women and the ... 383
Principle *v.* Programme. By Laurence Housman ... 179
Printers' Pie ... 210
Prisoners from Parliament Square, 289, 291, 298, 300, 305, 308, 309, 322, 326
Visits to ... 380, 427
Prison Reform ... 372
Reform, Extract from the *Daily News* 473
Treatment of Women ... 77
Private Member, the Powerlessness of the. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. ... 393
Probate Judge, A Woman as ... 439
Profession for Women, A New ... 379
Programme of Events, 4, 25, 43, 50, 73, 96, 111, 135, 156, 176, 186, 205, 220, 234, 247, 272, 287, 304, 320, 336, 352, 368, 383, 399, 415, 431, 437, 450, 467
Progress of Women, 103, 129, 149, 168, 181, 215, 235, 247, 267, 283, 295, 311, 327, 346, 379, 395, 407, 423, 439, 455
Progress Due to "The Militants" ... 370
Protest in Holloway, A ... 406
Meetings ... 87, 95, 115, 309
Protests at Cabinet Ministers' Meetings:
Albert Hall Temperance Meeting ... 178
Asquith, Mr. ... 37, 53, 58, 69, 272, 378
Birrell, Mr. ... 37, 69
Burns, Mr. John ... 45, 53, 219
Buxton, Mr. Sydney ... 14, 22, 37, 53
Carrington, Earl ... 53
Churchill, Mr. ... 284, 378
Crewe, Earl ... 69
Free Trade Banquet ... 378
Free Trade Congress ... 365
Gladstone, Mr. Herbert ... 37, 42
Haldane, Mr. ... 37, 42, 53, 69, 305, 316
Harcourt Mr. Lulu ... 14, 22, 53
Morley, Lord ... 305, 316
Peace Meeting, Queen's Hall ... 356, 360
Tweedmouth, Lord ... 37, 53

PAGE

Provinces, The Movement in 11, 42
Public Playing Fields for Girls. By Juliette Heale 340
Pudsey By-Election 219, 236, 255, 266
Punch 277, 310
Cartoon—
"Ulysses and Steam Sirens" 310

Q

Queen 277
Queen's Hall, Mr. Lloyd George at 356, 360
Questions in Parliament—
On Asquith's Supposed Pledge 209, 218
On Prisoners 300, 320, 337, 340, 380

R

Rawtenstall Demonstration 445
Reading, Mr. Birrell at 69
Protest Meeting 115
Reception at Portman Rooms 471
Referee, The 153, 262
Reform Bill Foreshadowed 358, 362, 408
of Women's Laws in Germany 215
Released Prisoners, Our 108, 358, 468
Release of Mrs. Leigh and Miss New, The ... 404
Rigby, Edith, Message of Encouragement ... 99
Robertson, Mr. E., Raised to Peerage 117
Robins, Elizabeth: Impressions of Newcastle By-election 452
Message of Encouragement 79
Robinson, Mrs. A. E.; Biography 253
Roe, Mrs.; Biography 254
Rome and Votes for Women 64
Women's Congress in 148
Romford W.S.P.U. 462
Rose, Miss; Biography 254
Ross (Herefordshire) By-Election, 54, 67, 85, 87
Rossendale Valley Campaign, 301, 317, 325, 397, 414, 429
Rossendale Valley, Mr. Harcourt in the, 14, 22
Royal Entrance, A, and a Popular Welcome 474
Runciman, Mr., Appointed as President of the Board of Education 117
Russian Ex-Deputies' Prison Life 422
Women's Movement 71, 215, 267

S

Sacrifices in £ s. d. 370
Salop (Newport) By-Election, 117, 171, 177, 187
St. James's Theatre Meeting 119, 210, 220
Sanders, William, Message from 47
Sarah Rooke, Mrs. 423
Schoolboy's Self-Denial, A 94
Schreiner, Olive, Message of Encouragement to Women 31
Scotland, The Campaign in 7, 21
Scotsman, The 203, 370
Scots Wha Hae? 458
Scott, Mrs.: Biography 253
Scottish Graduates' Action 103
Women Graduates' Lawsuit, The. By J. Chrystal Macmillan 34
W.S.P.U., 44, 60, 74, 115, 156, 174, 190, 207, 222, 238, 256, 271, 303, 447, 463, 478
Scottish Review 171
Scout, A Woman as 455
Self-Denial, A Schoolboy's 94
Plans for 75
Result 94
Week 43, 66, 77
Sennett, Maud Arncliffe 63
Shakespeare's Country, In 430
Shall This Country Lead the Way? By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. 426
Sharp, Evelyn, Special Articles by, 16, 159, 418, 470
Biography 254
Sheffield, Mr. Haldane at 42
Shields Daily News 299
Shipley Glen, Demonstration in 222
Shop Assistants' Meeting 228
Shorthand Writers and Typists' Association 423
Should Women Have Special Tramcars? By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 376
Showing Numbers 369
Shrewsbury Chronicle 172, 178
Sinclair, May, Message of Encouragement... 79
Sinews of War (Extract from *Daily Telegraph*) 93
Singer's Presence of Mind, A 439
Sinn Fein and Woman Suffrage 462
Sleeping Beauty in the Wood Retold, The ... 124
Smedley, Constance, Special Article by 372
Message of Encouragement 79
Smith, Miss K. Douglas; Biography 252
Mr. F. E. 38
Solidarity of Women, The. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 424
Song of the Suffragette, The (Poem). By Louise Jopling Rowe 95
Sonnet on Our Lady in Prison, A. By A. D. A. 102
Sonnets on Suffrage.—II.: Concerning Freedom. By James H. Cousins 102
III.: To Certain Legislators Who Speak Scornfully of Suffragette Methods 120
Southampton, Mr. Birrell at 37
South Coast, The Campaign on 22
South Hereford By-Election 54, 67, 85, 87
Leeds By-Election 67, 85
South Western Star 219
Spanish Women's Municipal Vote 168
Speakers' Class 60
Speakers in Hyde Park 141-5, 251-4
Spectator, The 207, 369
Spenser, The Sentiments of 102
Staff, Additional 78
Standard 93, 105, 131, 137, 203, 218, 261
Stanger's Bill (*see* Women's Enfranchisement Bill)
Stapleford and Long Eaton W.S.P.U., 398, 430
Star 104, 107, 204

PAGE

Stephenson, Jessie; Biography 254
Stevenson, Louisa, L.L.D., Death of 190
Stirling Burghs By-Election, 133, 151, 172, 188, 194, 206, 207
Stoke-on-Trent W.S.P.U. 430, 446, 462, 478
Stone-Throwing in Downing Street, 290, 297, 405
Stratford-on-Avon Herald 439
Streatham W.S.P.U. 398, 430, 446, 478
Strike at Tooting 423
Strong-Minded Man, The. By John Galsworthy 32
Students at Aberdeen and Mr. Asquith 271
In India 346
In Russia 267
Students' Successes 168, 235, 247, 267, 271
Suffrage Societies' Union, Premier's Rebuff of 322
Play, A Woman's 129
Woman's, and the Child. By Evelyn Sharp 16
"Suffragette," the New Game 28
Suffragettes in Prison: Special Article 291
Suffragettes, The Tactics of the. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 81
And the Cup Final 123
Scouts 11
To the (Deborah Webb) 70
Suffragist Prisoners, The 367, 380
Revival 28
Surgeons, Royal College of, and Women ... 311
Sweated Home Workers 407
Sweating Exhibition 388
Sweden, Women in 23, 41
Swimming Triumph, A 379, 395
Switzerland, Women in 55, 235
Sydney Bulletin 396
Sympathetic Tribute, A 95
Synagogue and Women's Suffrage 181

T

Tactics of the Suffragettes, The. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 81
Tariff Reform 457
Teachers and the Suffrage 45
Textile Workers' Employment Threatened ... 182
Thanks 410
Thanks for All. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 216
Then and Now. By F. W. Pethick Lawrence 392
The Tramp of Many Feet. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 184
Times, 17, 92, 93, 169, 202, 257, 259, 260, 315, 367, 380, 399, 465
Title Deeds of Political Liberty. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. 441
"To Hyde Park!" 125, 141, 162, 184, 196, 211, 227, 243, 268
T. P. O'Connor on the Liberal Government and Irish Women 436
Trades Disputes Bill, The 394, 409
Training of Women 379
Tramcars, Should Women have Special? By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 376
Treasurer's Note 43, 447, 463, 479
Tribune 29
Rendezvous, Mr. Harcourt at 53
"True Englishwoman, A" 379
Turkish Constitution 426, 473
Women, The Advance of 395, 439, 453
Tweedmouth, Lord, at Exeter 37
At Chelmsford 53
"Typical Suffragist, A." By Mary Phillips 35
Typists' Association 423

U

"Ulysses and Steam Sirens" (*Punch* Cartoon) 310
Unfurling of Banners 270
United States, Women's Suffrage in, 149, 423
Women's Work in 267
Unwin, Jane Cobden, Message from 13

V

Value of Militant Methods, The. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. 473
Vanbrugh, Violet, Special Message 242
Vanity Fair 77, 92, 114
Verse—
A Marching Song. By L. Nightingale ... 228
Any Suffragist to Any Woman. By J. P. 302
Any Wife to Any Husband. By M. E. P. 287
Asquith, Gladstone, &c. 363
Comrades' Song, The. By H. Dorant 380
Concerning Freedom. By James H. Cousins 102
Joan of Arc. By Annie Williams 66
Lords, Women in. Verses by "C. E. B." 155
Rhymes of the Times: A New View of it. By C. E. B. 155
Song of the Suffragette. By Louise Jopling Rowe 95
Suffrage Song, A 396
The Cause. By Francis Bickley 295
The Cause of the Woman Worker. By A. M. Royce 274
The Fighting Suffragist to the Frightened Politician. By Winifred Auld 325
The Pioneers. By Winifred Patricia Lynch 291
To an Imprisoned Suffragette (Miss Edith New). By M. M. S. 394
To the Suffragettes. By James H. Cousins 84
Woman. By W. R. Carey 258
Victoria (Australia), Women in 43, 55
Victorian Suffragettes 396
Victoria University (Manchester), Lord Morley at 305, 316
Mr. Haldane at 305, 316
Views of a Leading Actress 242
Votes for Women in 1908. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. 313
VOTES FOR WOMEN, Progress of 98, 410, 465

W

PAGE

Wage of the Married Woman, The. By Juliette Heale 48
Waiting-Room Literature 414
Wales and the Women's Movement 315, 328
Walthamstow W.S.P.U. 11, 156, 191
Water Raid on Commons 271
Watford, Earl Crewe at 69
Webb, Deborah, Message from 70
Webster, Alex., Message from 63
Weekly Issue of VOTES FOR WOMEN 97
Welcoming the Prisoners 465, 468
Wells, Mrs. Bormann, in New York 149
Welshman 315
Wentworth, Vera; Biography 252
"We Saw the Women Marching" 196
Western Daily Mercury 210
Daily Press 470
Morning News 76
West Highlands, Votes for Women in the ... 446
Hull By-Election 21
Westminster Gazette, 22, 29, 103, 105, 108, 173, 193, 204, 241, 369, 370, 439
West of England, 208, 333, 350, 366, 382, 397, 413, 428, 444, 459, 476
Wharncliffe Rooms, Breakfast at 113
What Prison Means to Suffragettes: Special Article 291
The Vote Means. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 5, 17, 33, 49
Votes for Women Means to Men. By F. W. Pethick Lawrence 65
Women are Worth. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 296
Where Women Would Find Gold. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 121
Who Follows in Their Train? By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 472
Why We Fight the Government at Haggerston. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. 345
We Fight the Government at Newcastle. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. 457
We Use Militant Tactics. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. 329
Wife, Legal Position of 17
What the Vote Means to the Woman as 17
Will of the People, The. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 312
Wilson's, Mr. David, Cartoon 13
Winchester Gun 405
Winston Churchill, Mr., 62, 69, 118, 126, 127, 137, 147, 153, 157, 284, 369
Appointment as President of the Board of Trade 117
Wedding 463
Wolverhampton: Boat on Canal 478
Wolverhampton (East) By-Election, 133, 138, 150, 157, 172
Woman and the Wise Reviewed 51
Woman Chairman of Board of Guardians ... 395
As Wife, The 50
Woman's Press 375, 430, 443, 461
Suffrage and the Child. By Evelyn Sharp 16
"Woman's Suffrage" (Arnold Harris Mathew) Reviewed 89
Woman's Suffrage from a Man's Point of View. By W. W. H. 434
Women and War 293, 327
As Voters 172
Candidates (*see* Candidates)
Clerks in Savings Bank Department 149
Draw the Prisoners' Carriage for the First Time 401
Of Germany, To the. By Annie Kenney... 3
On Local Bodies 379
Political Prisoners in the Bastille and in Holloway. By An Historical Student 390
Women in Other Lands, 3, 10, 23, 28, 41, 53, 64, 71, 95, 129, 148, 149, 155, 161, 168, 181, 214, 235, 237, 247, 267, 275, 283, 295, 327, 346, 379, 395, 407, 423, 439, 455
Women's Citizenship and Women's Punishment 436
Co-operative Guild 45, 283
Enfranchisement Bill, Mr. Stanger's—
Asquith's Reply 193, 200-205
Demand for Facilities 88, 178, 185
Questions in House 209, 217, 218, 370, 393
Labour Threatened by Government, 45, 166, 209, 210
Liberal Federation and Asquith's Pledge 204
March to Albert Hall 141
Parliament and the House of Commons, 53, 77, 82, 87
Sphere 135
Sunday 211, 227, 243, 268
By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence 248
Wages 380
Work, Equal Pay for 295
Woodlock, Miss P.; Biography 253
Woolwich Protest Meeting 309
Worcester (City) By-Election 54, 67, 85, 87
Work for the Holidays 366
Working Woman Wife, The 33
World 38
W.S.P.U. Founded 2

Y

Yorkshire, Adela Pankhurst in 11
Campaign, 11, 26, 42, 75, 95, 174, 191, 206, 222, 239, 285, 301, 317, 397, 413, 429, 444, 460, 477
Protest Meetings 87, 95, 115, 309
Yorkshire Herald 300
Post 84, 263, 349, 483

Z

Zangwill, Edith Ayrton: Old-Age Suffrage ... 402
Israel, Message from 15
Zanzibar, Sultan of, and the Vote, The 363

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Dedication	1
The Outlook:—An Early Dissolution; The Fourth Milestone; Why this Paper is Wanted; Monthly and Weekly Issues; How it can be Obtained; The Portrait of the Founder; Mrs. Pankhurst's Life; Our Cover Cartoon; Special Features	1, 2
Letter from Mary E. Gawthorpe	2
To the Women of Germany. By Annie Kenney	3, 4
Programme for October	4
What the Vote Means:—The Value of Human Life; The Unspoken Ideals of Women. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence	5
Leading Article:—The Battle Cry	6
The National Movement. By Christabel Pankhurst	7
The History of the Suffrage Movement. By Sylvia Pankhurst	8
Women Municipal Councillors	9
The Conference of German Women. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence	10
The Movement in London and the Provinces:—Brixton; Deptford; Harrow-road; Kensington; Walthamstow; Suffragette Scouts; At Home at Hove; Yorkshire Meetings	11
Scottish Notes	12
Contributions to the £20,000 Fund	12
Balance-sheet for September	12
Members' Pledge Cards	12

DEDICATION.

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK.

EVENTS move fast. But two years ago the question of woman's enfranchisement was regarded by the politicians as of no importance. To-day "Votes for Women" is essentially practical politics. Not only are women of all shades of political inclination vigorously expressing their demand, but up and down the country the electors are being forced to take sides upon the issue. And even the members of the House of Commons, slow as they are to respond to public opinion, are beginning to see that this reform cannot be much longer delayed. It now only needs one strong blow to force the Government of the day to act.

An Early Dissolution.

It is the generally accepted opinion in well-informed political circles that the session of 1908 will be the last session of the present Parliament, and that before proceeding further the Government will seek the renewed confidence of the country by means of a dissolution and General Election. It would be a standing disgrace if this were to take place before women had been enfranchised. It is, therefore, essential that during the session of 1908 a measure shall be carried through Parliament which shall enable women to take their share in the coming General Election, and to vote for the representatives who are entrusted with the making of the laws which women as well as men are called upon to obey. It is at this stage in the agitation that this paper *Votes for Women* comes into existence.

The Fourth Milestone.

Since the Women's Social and Political Union was originally founded by Mrs. Pankhurst in 1903 each annual milestone after the first has been marked by a fresh development in the movement. It was in October, 1905, that there occurred the historic imprisonment of Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Miss Annie Kenney as the result of their attempt to insist upon an answer by Sir Edward Grey to their question at his meeting. It was in October, 1906, that the present permanent offices of the Union in 4, Clements Inn were opened, wherein so many women have met together to agitate for their enfranchisement. It is now in October, 1907, that the first number of this paper, *Votes for Women*, is published to reinforce the agitation which is going on all over the country, and to be the mouthpiece of the advance guard who, throwing aside all other party ties, are determined to press forward their claim to victory.

Why this Paper is Wanted.

The demand which *Votes for Women* has to meet is twofold. In the first place, there is the growing desire for knowledge on the part of the outside public to learn what it is that women are really striving for and how far the agitation is progressing. The magnitude of this demand may be gauged by the fact that already during 1907 the W.S.P.U. has effected a sale, exclusive of leaflets, of 80,000 books, pamphlets, and other publications. In the second place, it has to supply to all those women who are at work within the ranks a bulletin of the doings of the Union which shall keep them in touch with all the ramifications of the movement and enable them to devote their work in the most profitable manner to the furtherance of the agitation.

Monthly and Weekly Issues.

It is proposed to meet this twofold demand in a somewhat novel manner. In the form in which it appears in this number *Votes for Women* will be issued as a *monthly* newspaper, and will contain articles and other material likely to be of special interest to the general public. A uniform price of 3d. a copy will be charged, or (as it cannot be registered at the Post Office as a newspaper, which only recognises weekly publications) it will be sent post free to any address within the postal union for 4d. a copy. In each of those weeks in which the monthly *Votes for Women* is *not* published a special four-page sheet will be issued containing all the principal news of the movement—an account of the happenings of the week gone by, and a programme of prospective arrangements for the week to come. This weekly bulletin will be

known as the *Votes for Women Supplement*,* and will be sold for ½d. (by post 1d.).

How It Can Be Obtained.

In the course of the year there will be twelve monthly numbers of the paper, and forty weekly supplements. Subscribers will be able to obtain the paper either through their newsagents, or through local W.S.P.U.S., or by post direct from the offices of the paper, 4, Clement's-inn, W.C. If they adopt the last course they should fill up the form which will be found accompanying this number of the paper. The subscription for the year for all the issues and supplements is 7s. 4d., inclusive of postage; for the twelve monthly issues only, 4s. A free sample of the first weekly supplement will be sent to any address on receipt of a post-card by the Publisher, *Votes for Women*, 4, Clement's-inn, W.C.

The Portrait of the Founder.

To every reader of this number of *Votes for Women* is presented a special plate, containing a portrait of Mrs. Pankhurst, the founder of the Women's Social and Political Union. We feel assured that our readers, to whom she is personally known, will find themselves in agreement with the criticism of her friends that the portrait is an exceedingly good likeness, and that short of a representation of her splendid animation and fire while commanding an audience, which no photograph can ever reproduce, it does convey to those who see it the quiet, strong, womanly characteristics which will make her name honoured all over the world.

Mrs. Pankhurst's Life.

In tracing the story of her life, it is interesting to notice that she was born on the anniversary of the destruction of the Bastille, and that her grandfather was one of those who took part in the famous vote-agitation of Peterloo, and narrowly escaped with his life. For nearly thirty years she has been engaged in working for women's emancipation, commencing by assisting her husband, the famous Dr. Pankhurst, in winning the Married Women's Property Act, which he drafted, and by being placed on the executive of the Women's Suffrage Society. She has served on the School Board for Manchester, and on the board of guardians, and she acted for some time as registrar of births and deaths in that town. For several years she gave her political adhesion to the Independent Labour Party, but now that the claims of women have become entirely predominant she has definitely abandoned all other party allegiance, and stands pledged to work for "Votes for Women," and for that alone. Since she founded the Women's Social and Political Union in 1903, the story of the growth and progress of that body has been the story of her own life, and not one brief note, but a series of chapters, will be necessary to tell that tale. In succeeding numbers of this paper it is hoped to develop this history in a form which will be of interest to the general public, as well as to those on the inside of the great movement.

Our Cover Cartoon.

In presenting this first issue of *Votes for Women* to the public, we should like to draw special attention to the pages of the cover. The cartoon which appears on the outside was originally published in the *Daily Chronicle* in April last, and attracted attention for the strength, beauty, and subtlety of its design; it is by the courteous permission of the proprietors of that paper that it is reproduced here. The flag on which the words "Votes for Women" are inscribed typifies the fight which women have to wage before their victory will be won. On page ii. will be found a directory of the movement, and also the terms of the constitution; on page iv. a list of all the publications which can be obtained through the literature department. An attempt has been made on page iii. to express in succinct form the various ways in which those who are interested in women's progress, but have not as yet associated themselves in any direct way with the movement, can come into line with the workers.

Special Features.

Of the special events of the month that is gone by none are more interesting than the German Conference of Women, which took place at the latter end of September, in Frankfurt, to which Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Annie Kenney went as delegates of the Women's Social and Political Union. The account which we publish on page 8 of the present issue gives a picture of the women's movement as it exists in Germany to-day, and the various problems with which it has to deal. Annie Kenney's speech on that occasion is given on page 3. Other special features of the present issue are the article by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, on page 5, "What the Vote means"; the first chapter of the history of the Suffrage Movement—the story of Peterloo told by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst; the account of the first women to fight as candidates in the municipal elections, and the manifesto which is being drawn out by the Leicester candidate. We would also draw attention to the forthcoming "At Home," to be given by the members of the committee of the N.W.S.P.U. in the Portman Rooms, on October 12, and the demonstration in the Queen's Hall, arranged for November 11.

LETTER FROM MISS GAWTHORPE.

To the Editors "Votes for Women."

I am delighted to hear we are to have a paper of our own from which the general public will be able to learn the immense amount of work which is being put into this campaign, and the great effect which it has already produced.

I feel I am getting stronger every day, and look forward to the time, now not so far distant, when I shall be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other members of the committee of the National Women's Social and Political Union in winning from the Government the enfranchisement of my sex.

Yours, &c.,
MARY E. GAWTHORPE.

* The Supplements to the present October number will accordingly be issued on October 10, October 17, and October 24, while the November number will be ready October 31.